



FILIA, P.O. Box 135, Aitkin, MN 56431 • FILIALake@gmail.com • FarmIslandLake.org

Hello All,
I hope that all of you are safe and healthy, and warm.

Annual Meeting June 18th

The FILIA annual meeting will be held at Hazelton Town Hall from 9:00 Am to 11:00 AM. It's a good way to meet your neighbors and stay on top of events and discussions surrounding Farm Island Lake and the Aitkin community. Because of the pandemic, any changes to this meeting date will be included in a newsletter, so be sure we have your email address.

Hazelton Town Hall is 2 miles south of Tame Fish Lake Rd / Hwy 11. You do not have to be a paid member to attend. We have guest speakers who cover information pertinent to lake property owners. Other activities, to name just a few: walleye re-stocking updates (when available), attendees can discuss concerns and happenings around the lake, vote for board association member when a board member's term is expired, ACLARA updates, AIS updates, water clarity, etc.

The speaker will be DNR AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) specialists Tim Plude. Tim is the contact for our region if you have questions on invasive species identification and management. Phone: 218-203-4354
Email: timothy.plude@state.mn.us

Board Member Opening

We have an open position for a Board of Director (Board Member). The board members meet twice a year and attend the annual meeting held the 3rd Saturday of June. The board meetings are held the first Saturday in May and on Labor Day, from 9:00 – 11:00 AM, at The Joint Tavern & Eatery. It is a 3-year voluntary position and is a great way to be actively involved in the lake community and activities and in local county information.

Shore Captain Needed

We currently need 1 Shore Captain for the northwest shore. Anyone who is interested please contact a board member or send us an email. If the area where you live currently has a Shore Captain and you would like to be one - the areas can be divided up.

Shore Captains are Farm Island Lake residents who have volunteered to help provide lake users and residents with lake related information by:

- Welcoming new residents and making them aware of lake issues(e.g. Invasive Species controls) and opportunities.
- Helping disseminate late breaking news(e.g. no-wake order in 2012 due to high water).
- Providing input to the FILIA board on issues and opportunities based on feedback from their area.

Shore Captains are provided with a brochure that they can hand out to new lake property owners along with a membership application. The Shore Captain brochure is on the website on the Contact/Calendar page.

Our goal is to have Shore Captains on the different shoreline areas of the lake. It is a wonderful way to get to know your neighbors and keep well-informed of happenings and news around the lake.

Here is a list of our current with one open position.
Use the FILIALake@gmail.com to contact a Shore Captain.

Shore Captains

Open position	Northwest Shore	
Scott Scheele.....	Southeast Shore	Denise NolingEast Shore
Randy Feltmann	Southwest Shore	Lowell LarsonDummer's Bay
John Pierson	Johnson Point	Sharon MattisonWest Shore
Rebekah & Rett Martin.....	Farm Island	Karen UlstadWest Shore
Gordon Vetsch	Dahle Bay	Cindy & Tom Scott.....South Shore

238 paid members in 2021!

2021 Membership Update

We had 238 paid members for year 2021! (62% of 382 lake property owners.) We beat year 2020 paid member count by three memberships! (We had 235 last year.) The year 2021 member list is on our website, along with past years. For this year, an application is included at the bottom of this newsletter and is available online on your website. 1/3 of paid members used the online payment method to pay their dues and toward the AIS fund.



This year 2022 we already have 20 paid members.

- 70 (29%) members paid additional monies toward the AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) fund.
- 78 (33%) paid members used the online payment option on the website.
- A large membership base provides us with a strong voice when it comes to the affairs involving lakeshore ownership, including grant applications, government, county and local agency activities.
- FILIA is a non-profit organization.

Online Dues Payment

You can pay your dues online using your credit card. There is a \$1.15 fee that goes directly to Square.com, the app that provides the secure online payment service. Postage is now 55 cents. It is a simple, safe and fast way to use your credit card so you can get those credit card points and rewards.

AIS Funding

Additional monies can be paid toward the Aquatic Invasive Species Fund (AIS) when you mail in your application or pay online with your due's payment.



Lake users are 99.2% compliant in the fight against AIS

Message about spreading aquatic invasive species is getting through

Aitkin Independent Age article by Jeanne Schram for the Aitkin County Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Jan 19, 2022
https://www.messagemedia.co/aitkin/outdoors/lake-users-are-99-2-compliant/article_94053cec-789f-11ec-a530-3fe631cb7a28.html

The users of Aitkin County lakes last year reached a 99.2% compliance rate in the fight against aquatic invasive species. That figure came from an annual report to Aitkin County government by Steve Hughes, district manager of the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Inspectors checked boats and other water equipment 9,417 times at 17 county lakes. The lakes were Big Pine, Big Sandy, Cedar, Clear, **Farm Island**, Fleming, Hill, Lone, Long, Mnnewawa, Pine, Ripple, Round, Round northwest of Mille Lacs, Spirit, Waukenabo and Wilkins.

“We had 15 inspectors,” said Hughes, “but it would be better to have that number in the mid-20s.”

Inspections are performed at public accesses between Memorial Day and Labor Day annually. Equipment is checked for drain plugs in boats upon arrival; plants, animals, water and mud; and zebra mussels.

No zebra mussels were found on equipment in 2021.

“Boaters are doing a good job cleaning their equipment,” noted Hughes. “Other than Mille Lacs Lake, zebra mussels are pretty rare here.”

The most violations, and where a higher number of inspections were made, were on Farm Island and Minnewawa lakes with 18 and 11 violations respectively. **The highest number of inspections occurred on Farm Island, 2,251** and Big Sandy, 2,122 followed by 969 inspections on Cedar Lake, 873 on Big Pine, 528 on Minnewawa and 410 on Ripple. The remaining lakes had fewer inspections done.

Inspections were done on boat lifts, docks, canoes, kayaks, fishing boats, Jon boats, personal watercraft pontoons, runabouts, sailboats and wakeboard boats.

Most violations continue to be what they have been in past years – drain plugs in boats upon arrival.

Aitkin County SWCD has three decontamination units available for public use. They are located at Lake Minnewawa, Spirit Lake and Big Pine near Lake Mille Lacs. During the week, a unit is available for courtesy cleaning through the office of SWCD at the Aitkin County Government Center. At the request of the Big Sandy Lake Association, a fourth unit is located at the Army Corps of Engineers’ dam on Big Sandy Lake.

FIGHTING AIS

In September 2015, the Minnesota Legislature allotted approximately \$10 million to distribute to counties that submitted an application and demonstrated a need for the prevention and identification of AIS in their lakes. Aitkin County receives \$270,000 annually based on the number of lakes with public accesses and the number of parking spaces at those accesses.

Aitkin County established the AIS Committee to run the program and oversee the budget. The county hires trained level-one inspectors to check boats and trailers and other water-related equipment for AIS and level-two inspectors operate decontamination units. About 9,000 inspections were done in 2016. Over the last few years, Aitkin County has increased not only inspections, but the release of educational information via news articles and radio spots. By 2019, watercraft inspections on area lakes numbered more than 11,000 and already hit nearly 99% compliance and that number continues to climb.

Lake users still need to remember to remove drain plugs as well as plants, animals and mud from their boats or other watercraft. The SWCD has given away thousands of boat plug holders that adhere to the back of a boat to help boaters remember to take the plugs out. Other incentive programs are a bounty paid to people who leave out docks or boat lifts an extra nine days over the state requirement.

“We have a consistent message year after year,” Hughes said. “Last season there was not one unpleasant interaction at an inspection site. **People are beginning to see it as part of boating.**”

That message Hughes mentioned is this: *As always, stopping the spread of invasive species to other lakes and rivers protects habitat for native species. Overall lake and river health is better without invasive species. Healthy lakes and rivers benefit fish, wildlife and people. Remember, “Clean, Drain, Dry and Dispose.”*

Wake Boat Study - Webinar Registration: UMN Boat-Generated Wake Study: Overview of research...

Description: An evening with ground breaking St. Anthony Falls Lab researchers Jeff Marr and Andy Riesgraf.

Time: Feb 16, 2022 7:00 PM https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_T7Q8Pm5PTuCoRqa7GRIUUg

UMN Boat-Generated Waves Report- Now Available

Published as a University of Minnesota - St. Anthony Falls Laboratory Project Report, by Jeff Marr & Andy Riesgraf

We are excited to announce that the first report from the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) Healthy Waters Initiative on boat-generated wake waves is now published and available for download. The full report is available via the University of Minnesota’s Digital Conservancy (link below). You can also read the University’s news release, as well as FAQs, by following the links below.

This report focuses on characterizing the wake waves produced by four recreational watercraft. Two of these boats are typical recreational watercraft used for cruising, waterskiing, and tubing, and represent boats that have been on Minnesota lakes for many decades. We also studied two wakesurfing boats, newer to Minnesota’s waters. The report discusses the waves produced by these boats, including how the wave heights and energy within the waves changes with distance from the boat. We hope the data and findings presented in this report are useful for the common goals of developing guidance for shared-use of lakes, education and safety for boat operators and lake users, and the protection and conservation of Minnesota’s most amazing resource - our lakes and rivers.

We want to thank those that provided financial support to this research through our 2020 crowdfunding campaign. Your generosity provided vital resources and allowed us to gather valuable data to begin to better understand how our lakes are responding to recreational boating. This model of funding research is relatively new for SAFL and allowed us to quickly establish this project. It's amazing to think that the crowdfunding was launched in late June 2020 and by September 2020 we had selected our study site, designed and fabricated all our sensor systems, secured boats for the study, and assembled our field team. Data and testing occurred over a very cold and unpredictable October 2020. And over the last year, we’ve been working to analyze data and develop this first report.

The report itself is published as a University of Minnesota - St. Anthony Falls Laboratory Project Report. This report has undergone an external technical review by subject matter experts. Two reviewers provided thorough critiques on a draft of the report. Over the last two months, we’ve worked through these reviews and developed the final version of the report.

Our research in this area will continue into the next phase of study, which will focus on the propeller wash generated by recreational boats and on the interactions of waves with lake bottoms, aquatic vegetation, and shorelines. Over the next few months we will also be developing several proposals to seek funding to support this next phase.

We will continue to post updates through the Healthy Waters Initiative [website](#) as we work to secure funding and develop our research plans.

With regards,
Jeff Marr & Andy Riesgraf
The Healthy Waters Initiative Research Team

LINKS

Full report: [“A Field Study of Maximum Wave Height, Total Wave Energy, and Maximum Wave Power Produced by Four Recreational Boats on a Freshwater Lake”](#)

[News release: Boat-generated wake study](#)

[FAQs: Boat-generated wake study](#)

Contact: For all media requests, please contact Savannah Erdman (erdma158@umn.edu) at University Relations, or the University Relations' main news line at unews@umn.edu.

Ice Thickness Guidelines

Check out the MN DNR's Ice Thickness Guidelines at: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/thickness.html>. See more ice fishing information below.

Current Farm Island Lake ice fishing conditions

From Dennis Kraimer, FILIA President: Fishing on Farm Island has been okay. We have had approximately 30 plus inches of snow as of February. The snow has settled and most of the slush has turned to ice making travel a little more manageable. As always, no ice is ever safe, so check as you go and always be cautious. Keep a tight line!

DNR offers tips for safe ice fishing season

Safety first

The recommended minimum thickness for walking on new, clear ice is 4 inches. Wait for 5 to 7 inches before heading out on an ATV or snowmobile, and keep cars off until there's 8 to 12 inches. Anyone planning to drive out in a truck, should wait until there's at least 12 to 15 inches of ice. Double these minimums for white or snow-covered ice.

- Wear a life jacket or float coat on the ice (except when in a vehicle).
 - Carry ice picks, rope, an ice chisel and tape measure.
- Check ice thickness at regular intervals; conditions can change quickly.
- Bring a cell phone or personal locator beacon.
 - Don't go out alone; tell someone about trip plans and expected return time.
 - Before heading out, inquire about conditions and known hazards with local experts.
 - If you see someone fall through, remain calm and call 911. Do not attempt a rescue unless there is a means of self-rescue. Throw the person any piece of buoyant gear available, as well as a rope, jumper cables or other object to pull them out of the water or away from thin ice. Let go if they start pulling you toward dangerous ice.

Be a positive member of the ice fishing community

- Following are some things for all ice anglers to keep in mind:
- Pick up after yourself. Anything but an impression left on the ice is litter.
- Do not go onto private property unless you have permission to be there.
- Maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet from members of other households at public access sites and on the ice. If the access is full, try another lake or try again at a less-busy time.
- Minimize noise, and remember to keep a respectful distance from other anglers.

For more information on staying safe on the ice, visit the [ice safety page](#). For the basics of ice fishing, visit the [learn to ice fish page](#).

Boating and Fishing Regulations

It's never too late, or too early, to remind folks that the DNR Boating and Fishing Regulations are on our website under Useful Info <https://www.farmislandlake.org/useful-links> and are also listed on the DNR website.

The following information on personal watercraft is from the boating guide.

WHAT IS A PERSONAL WATERCRAFT?

A personal watercraft (sometimes called PWC or by brand names such as Jet Ski, Wave Runner, Sea Doo, etc.) is defined by law as a motorboat powered by an inboard motor powering a jet pump or by an outboard or propeller driven motor and is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the craft, rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside a motorboat.

Personal watercraft are considered motorboats under the law so they must follow all the regulations that govern other motorboats.

In addition, personal watercraft . . .

- Are required to have a rules decal (provided at no charge by the DNR) in full view of the operator.
- Operators and passengers must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V life jacket.
- Are required to carry a USCG approved fire extinguisher.
- Must travel at slow-no wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of shore (except when a PWC is launching or landing a water skier by the most direct route to open water), docks, swimmers, swimming rafts, any moored or anchored watercraft or non-motorized watercraft.



- While towing a person on water skis or other device, must have an additional person on board to act as observer. Wide-angle rearview mirrors may be substituted for an observer but they must be factory-installed or specified by the PWC manufacturer.
- Cutoff lanyards must be properly used and attached to the person, life jacket or clothing of the operator.
- May only operate between 9:30 a.m. and one hour before sunset (see sunset schedule).

You may not . . .

- Chase or harass wildlife.
- Operate while facing backward.
- Operate in a way that endangers life, limb or property.
- Operate a personal watercraft if the spring-loaded throttle mechanism has been removed or tampered with so it interferes with the return-to-idle system.
- Weave through congested watercraft traffic or jump the wake of another watercraft within 150 feet of the other boat.
- Travel through emergent or floating vegetation at greater than a slow-no wake speed.

AGE RESTRICTIONS FOR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

Contact the MN DNR at the address at the end of this pamphlet for home-study materials for a youth watercraft operator's permit.

It is unlawful for a PWC owner to permit its operation in violation of the age restrictions. (See chart on next column.)

Less than 13 years old	May not operate, even with an adult on board.
13 years old	Must either have: someone at least 21 on board, or a watercraft operator's permit and be in continuous visual observation by someone at least 21.
14-17 years old	Must either have: a watercraft operator's permit, or someone at least 21 on board.

Note: When government, local agency and county information is included we are serving as the messenger to keep you informed of their activities concerning Farm Island Lake.



Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)

MAISRC's 2021 Research Report

Over the last year, our research teams have worked tirelessly in the field, lab, and at their computers to generate and analyze data that is informing evidence-based decisions from the end of your dock to the State Capitol. The incremental steps are making a difference, leading to big wins, and eventually to real-world solutions to aquatic invasive species problems.

This year, we're excited to share our past year's research highlights in the form of a story map—enjoy an interactive experience, watch project videos, click straight to project pages, and see exactly where research is happening on the map. Explore all the MAISRC research highlights from 2021:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a5cdaa6b7b284c2ab8bb1dd7d4dc1c6>

AIS Management 101 - Registration open!

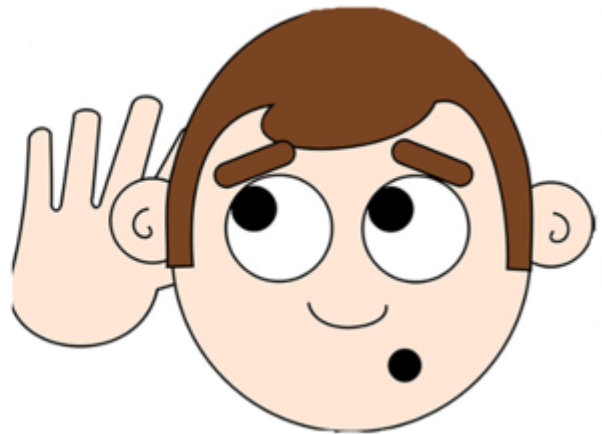
This online class is perfect for anyone who wants to be better informed about aquatic invasive species management strategies. Join us and learn more about what's happening on your nearby lake, what lake management professionals are doing, and new AIS control efforts. [More info >](#)

<https://maisrc.umn.edu/ais-management101>

Noise can travel on the lake. When you're talking in a boat be mindful that your voice can carry and people on other boats or on the shore may hear what you're saying.



This holds true for boat radios – the noise from a loud radio can travel far across the lake. Please be noise-considerate of others. We all are here to enjoy the lake.



- The FILIA Board Members, in order to fulfill our mission of stewardship for Farm Island Lake, strive to maintain good communications and collaborative efforts with lake association members and Aitkin County and state agencies such as the DNR, Aitkin Area Fisheries, Aitkin County Soil & Water Conservation District, and Invasive Species Specialist, to name a few.
- When government, local agency and county information is included we are serving as the messenger to keep you informed of their activities concerning Farm Island Lake.
- The FILIA board members act in good faith as volunteers and assume no responsibility for the boat parade or any other FILIA activity.

The **Blue Fire Number**, which is your address number, is used by **emergency responders** to locate your property. This could save your life or property. If you are in an association you need your own number, placed by your individual house, so you can quickly be located. To order, contact the Aitkin County Highway Department 218-927-3741. In an emergency, be able to give detailed directions on how to reach you. Write it down, and post it so everyone at your house can see it.



DNR List of Permitted Lake Service Providers

Lake service providers who install and remove docks and lifts for hire are required by the DNR to be trained and have a permit. Use the link below and select Aitkin and Crow Wing or other county for a list of permitted lake service providers. The list appears at bottom of the web

page. https://webapps11.dnr.state.mn.us/aquatic_invasive_species_training/lake_service_provider_permits/public_website_list. This link and information is also on your FILIA website on the Useful Info page.

The list of permitted lake service providers is made available for the convenience of the public only. Farm Island Lake Improvement Association, The State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources neither endorse the services listed nor accept any liability arising from the use of the services listed.

Minnesota law requires water recreationists to:

- **Clean watercraft of all aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.**
- **Drain** all water by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport.
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash and dispose of bait water.
- **Dry** docks, lifts, swim rafts and other equipment for at least 21 days before placing equipment into another water body.

For more information on the Minnesota law, which holds true whether or not a lake is listed as infested – go to this online link. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html>

Be sure to inform your visitors and neighbors of this important Minnesota regulation, which is also important and necessary to keep our lake clean and free of invasive species.

2021 DNR Ice Dates for Farm Island Lake

Ice-out date was April 5

Ice-in date was December 7, with a thin layer of ice covering the lake.

More ice details can be found on your website on the Newsletters/Lake Info. page.

Click on the map for a link to the printable map on your website. FarmIslandLake.org



2022 Calendar of FILIA Events

*Spring Board Meeting	Saturday, May 7, 8:00 am	Joint Tavern & Eatery
Annual Association Meeting	Saturday, June 18, 9-11:00 am	Hazelton Town Hall
4th of July Boat Parade	Saturday, July 2, Noon	FIL South Public Access
*Fall Board Meeting	Saturday, Sept 3, 8:00 am	The Joint Tavern & Eatery

Hazelton Town Hall is located on east side of US Hwy 169, a few miles south of Tame Fish Lake Rd.

*Only board members attend the Board Meetings.

The annual meeting is held the 3rd Saturday of June each year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Kraimer President	Cindy Chuhanic	Mike Harrington
Gordon Vetsch V.P.	Bill Haroldson	Stan Barnes
Cheryl McDonough ... Treasurer/Secretary	Denise Noling	Open Position

FILIA Website

There is a lot of information on the FILIA website. This site map includes the links to the various pages on the website. FarmIslandLake.org

Site Map

- [Home](#) Mission statement, printable map of Farm Island Lake, description
- [Membership](#) Members lists, application form
- [Pay Dues](#) Pay yearly membership dues online with credit card
- [Newsletters/Lake Info](#) Current and past newsletters, Gillnet Survey Results
- [Contact/Calendar](#) List of Board of Directors, Shore Captains, Meeting dates
 - [Local Events](#)
- [Administrative](#) Financial reports, current and past
 - [Meeting Minutes](#)
 - [FILIA Bylaws](#)
- [Aquatic Invasive Species](#)
 - [Score Your Shore](#)
 - [How to identify zebra mussels](#)
 - [Living with zebra mussels](#)
 - [How to combat swimmer's itch](#)
- [Useful Info](#) Aitkin County contacts, etc.
 - [Boating & Fishing Regulations](#)
 - [DNR Permitted Lake Service Providers](#)

Be sure we have your email addresses to ensure receipt of newsletters and email updates throughout the year.



Be Well. Be safe. Have fun!

Sincerely,
Cheryl McDonough
FILIA Treasurer/Secretary
filialake@gmail.com
Your comments are welcome.

FILIA
PO Box 135
Aitkin, MN 56431

FarmIslandLake.org

Clean In Clean Out

When boating or fishing in Minnesota, protect your waters by following state aquatic invasive species laws.

1. **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.

2. **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) *and* drain bilge, live well and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreline property. **Keep drain plugs out** and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/q_and_a_drain_plug_law_20110609.pdf

3. **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

KNOW THE LAW: You may not...

- Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug.
- Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on any roadway.
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- Release bait into the water.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Spray, rinse, dry — Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another waterbody, especially after leaving zebra mussel and spiny waterflea infested waters:

- **Spray** with high-pressure water
- **Rinse** with very hot water*
- **Dry** for at least 5 days

Run motor and personal watercraft for a few seconds to discharge water before leaving a water access.

Transport fish on ice — be prepared, bring a cooler.

* These water temperatures will kill zebra mussels and some other AIS: 120°F for at least 2 minutes; or 140°F for at least 10 seconds

Report suspicious infestations

If you suspect a new infestation of an invasive plant or animal, take a photo and note the location, or save a specimen and report it to a local [DNR invasive species contact](#).

More information at https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/preventspread_watercraft.html

To print just this page for your application, in your Print Settings at the Pages input prompt, type in 11.

FILIA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

FarmIslandLake.org

BECOME A MEMBER AND HELP PRESERVE AND ENHANCE FARM ISLAND LAKE

Dues are **\$25.00** a year per property owner from January to December.

You can pay online at your FILIA website, or bring this form to the annual meeting, or mail it to:

Farm Island Lake Improvement Association (or FILIA)

Date: _____

PO Box 135

Aitkin, MN 56431

Name _____

Home Address _____

No need to write your home address if your correct address is on your check.

Lake Address _____

Phone-best year-round contact phone(s) _____

Email-best year-round contact email(s) _____

Your email addresses will be used to send you newsletters and other FILIA news. It will not be sold or shared.

Additional money for the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Fund \$ _____